

"The mountains of mourning":

# Mississippi man begins relief to Kurdish refugees

By Alvis Ken Cooper

May 1, 1991 — Sometimes in life, critical events catch you by surprise. The whole world, after the Gulf war, was caught off guard as millions of Kurds fled to the mountains of Turkey and Iran to escape the vengeance of what was left of the Iraqi army. In a matter of hours and days, hundreds of thousands found themselves trapped in snowy mountains without food or shelter. Like a sudden storm that appears out of nowhere, little children, the aged, and desperate mothers and fathers were dying — helpless to help themselves — while the world looked on with shock.

Like a giant stunned by some unseen blow, the world community in slow motion, began to respond to a tragedy unfolding before their eyes.

My hand shot into the air almost without thinking — "Who of you would be ready to fly to the refugee camp in Zakhu by 7 a.m. tomorrow?" It probably was not my swift response that got me first on the general's list to ride the plane to Zakhu, but more likely that the American ambassador's wife, Sheppie, knew my name more than the others. Out of the crowd, only six of us were able to go. I thought about it on the way back to our apartment to tell Martha, my wife. I really had no authority to stick my hand up for over 15 million Southern Baptists who I knew would be giving as I had known them to give in events such as this all of my life. I felt some consolation in the fact that it would not cost anything to go look and to remind myself that I am not a "representative," but a "messenger."

We left early, flying on a 12-seat twin-engine turbo-prop to Diyarbakir, about two hours' flying time southeast of Ankara. We landed at the Turkish air base. The scene brought back memories of Vietnam. G.I.'s were everywhere. All along the flight line they had set up their tents, work centers, and five-to-six-seater toilets. It brought back memories of my

childhood — as a five-year-old I had done a double back flip through the seat of one of those things. Fortunately, it was not a well-type.

Turkish pilots were doing target practice along the flight line with their Migs and live ammunition. (I prayed they were good pilots.)

We were loaded on two choppers that would fly us the rest of the way to Zakhu. This would be my first flight in a helicopter. My seat was next to the sliding door. I felt like I was hanging out of the window. We flew along the Tigris River valley, a river with much history. The region along the river was beautiful, but was as foreboding as the Grand Canyon of Colorado in places. We flew along the plateaus that seemed only feet below us, and suddenly there was nothing below for a mile straight down.

We landed at a place called Silopi. Here relief supplies were stacked everywhere: sugar and flour, corn flakes, nuts of all sorts, multiples of other things, and cheese-balls! The problem was getting to the mountaintops where the refugees were. We waited in Silopi about 30 minutes, and then on to Zakhu, about 10 minutes across the Iraqi border.

As we flew over Zakhu, it looked like a ghost town. All that could be seen in the ground were deserted streets from which the people had fled. Roving jeeps or Allied Marines could also be seen patrolling the city. Our 'copter let down in an open wheat or barley field. Fresh sprouts of green shoots could be seen across the valley. A few tents had been erected, and you could see the blue tents with white flaps popping in the breeze. It was hot in Zakhu. I had started out in a suit coat, raincoat, and tie. I had since shed all three. It was Mississippi August hot.

We were briefed by American officers on plans for Zakhu. The military would erect the super structure, get it functioning — and then turn the tent city of 100,000 residents

over to private relief organizations.

Nine or ten tent cities of the same size would have to be built along the west to east valley, parallel with the mountain range on which refugees were suffering. Needed: qualified people who could run a hospital, staff it, and provide medical care; water and sanitation people; food distribution people; a temporary feeding kitchen; managers to oversee blocks of tents; administrators of all sorts. The task seemed impossible. Now I understood what a job Moses had leading the children out of Egypt! Only God could do it!

To complicate the problem, another 1,500,000 refugees were suffering the same fate along the Iranian-Iraqi borders — almost as many as 3,000,000 people dying on the mountains if relief is not forthcoming. Before, it was flight from the war, the cold, and the elements. Now, disease could sweep across the mountains as the weather warms. The threat of cholera, malaria, and the very outrage of the plague! The refugees are facing pestilence of great proportion unless they come off the mountains to these safe havens provided by the Allies.

Consider how great a task this is. Most of us watched the Gulf war where over one million men — 500,000 Iraqi soldiers against 500,000 soldiers Allied — faced each other. All of these men were well trained and knew what and when to act. Consider the refugees who are three times as many as all the soldiers that were in the Gulf war. The difference is this: the refugees are not an army. Every family or every person does or goes as he pleases. To move these people is an awesome, impossible task, but with help from God's people it can be done.

Here is an opportunity for Christians all over the world to say to Moslem people, "We love you." Zakhu is centered smack in the middle of the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and the Soviet Union. People everywhere were amazed at what happened to the Berlin Wall.

Consider this — God has focused the world's attention on the mountains that surround Zakhu and on the valley in which it lies. It is the only good passage between Iraq and Turkey. It is a valley gate between the east and west. It is the place where Christianity can put its faith into practice. It is the most significant moment for Christians in my lifetime to show to the Islamic world what Christ is all about.

The needs cannot be met with good wishes and solemn prayers, although they are important. This tragic event is going to take sacrifice and service. People with specific skills are desperately needed. If every member of the 15 million Southern Baptists gave a hundred dollars apiece, it would not be enough to care for these many people — but if we do not give and serve, many of them are going to die. I beseech my Southern Baptist brothers and sisters in Jesus' name: Do what you do best. Give of your means and give of your service. Give your heart to this relief.

Cooper, a Mississippian, and his wife are presently living in Turkey. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is a retired Southern Baptist pastor.

# The Baptist Record

Thursday, May 30, 1991

Published Since 1877



Southern Baptist Ken Cooper stands with a Kurdish man near the refugee camp at Zakhu.

## Kurdish family asks, 'Where was God?'

By Erich Bridges

ISEKVEREN REFUGEE CAMP, Turkey (BP) — "God is just a coolie of Saddam Hussein," the Kurdish man said bitterly.

He sat by a fire in front of the "tent" — a few blankets thrown over sticks — he shared with his wife, young children, and another family at the Isekveren camp for Kurdish refugees in southern Turkey.

They had little food, no clothing other than the dirty clothes they wore, no sanitation, no clean water. As many as 175,000 other Kurds surrounded them in the camp, where conditions actually were better that late-April day than in more isolated camps to the east.

As the man talked of his family's plight, Mike Stroope listened. Stroope, a Southern Baptist worker helping organize relief and medical aid for Kurds crossing the Iraqi border into Turkey, was visiting the area to assess needs.

"Saddam was chasing them into the hills," Stroope said, recalling the family's story. "And at the same time, one of the worst storms they'd ever seen came up and beat them down for about a week and a half. For them to go into that, and here was Saddam

dropping napalm, they feel they've been betrayed and forgotten. . . . They feel even God has forsaken them."

Many had come to camp in reasonably good health, but hunger, exposure, and filthy conditions were killing more and more, "especially the old and little children," they told Stroope. How many children were dying? "Many, many."

"I told them that I was an American and asked how I could help," Stroope said. "Their immediate response was, 'Come and help our children.' As I left they made me promise I would come back and bring help."

"When we got to the end of our time talking, they brought me some tea. Here they were in their filth and in their sad situation, and yet they made me tea and brought it to me. (They are) a proud people."

But Southern Baptist medical teams will work in more isolated camps farther east in Turkey — where conditions reportedly are even worse than what Stroope saw at Isekveren.

"Just a flash in the pan isn't going to do it," Stroope said. "We've got to be there for them for a longer haul if we're going to make an impact."



Kurdish children stand in front of the tent city at Zakhu.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The sweet misery of Sunday morning

This is the descriptive phrase one pastor used in describing Sunday morning. The hopes and aspiration, dare we say expectation, begin to rise. He has been with his people all week. He was at the hospital when new life was born, and buried a friend. He tried to comfort the sorrowing, visit the sick, soothe the shut-ins, and speak to a local civic club.

All week through, his thoughts were, "Is there a word from the Lord?" Study he must. Prayer and meditation are essential if the sermon garden grows. Sunday is coming; he is expected to be ready.

Dealing constantly with human relationships can be explosive. He becomes a part of all he touches. Like an anonymous writer said:

"A man was starving in Capri, He moved his eyes and looked at me.

I felt his gaze, I heard his moan And I knew his hunger as my own.

I saw at sea a great fog bank, Between two ships that struck and sank  
A thousand screams the heavens smote, And each scream tore through my throat."

Facing the fish-bowl existence day after day wears on a person. Like the disciples of old, he must draw aside for a while. The sponge can be squeezed until there is nothing left to give.

Stress stalks in. Depression is not unknown. Burn-out hits like the vehement east wind of Jonah. Amidst all of this babies are born, people die, precious friends are sick, and he must prepare three sermons a week. Add to this the burden of unsaved people, the social ills of the community, and financial difficulties, and suddenly you've got a full-grown, three-alarm headache.

What can I do to help my pastor? First, call his name daily in prayer.

Nothing strengthens like knowing people are praying for you. Encourage your pastor to give adequate time to his family. Surely he is not expected to attend every meeting in the church.

Protect his study time. Include conferences, continuing education, and seminar expenses in your budget. Assist in visitation when possible. Realize he will not hit a home run every time he comes to bat. Friendship is a terrific encourager, and believe it, your wealth can still be counted in the number of friends on your side.

It is written that "God speaks to us in the language we know best — our circumstances." And God speaks to pastor and people, for "my sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me" (John 10:27). The sweet misery merely extends to seven days a week as we accept the bitter and the sweet and realize with wonderment, "God spoke to me through that experience."

## Gallup gives advice to pastors about Americans, faith, practice

By Mark Wingfield

NEWARK, N.J. (BP) — Every pastor needs to know at least seven things about the average American, the nation's best-known pollster said.

George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization of Princeton, N.J., spoke to a group of Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries at an urban ministries conference sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

Drawing upon data gathered from various national polls, Gallup listed seven needs the church should strive to meet for Americans.

1. The need for shelter and food. Gallup said this is the most basic need of all people and therefore must rise to the top of the list.

2. The need to believe life is meaningful and has a purpose.

Gallup said 70 percent of Americans believe it is important that life is meaningful and has purpose, yet as many as two-thirds of people interviewed believe most churches and synagogues are not effective in meeting this need.

"The fact is, significant numbers of people find churches irrelevant, unfulfilling, or boring," he said.

3. The need for a sense of community and deeper relationships.

Gallup said "radical individualism" is taking hold on Americans, causing them to be among the loneliest people in the world.

Three of every 10 Americans say they have been lonely for a long period of time in their lives.

4. The need to be appreciated and respected.

"As many as one-third of American people have a low sense of self-worth or self-esteem," Gallup reported.

"Significantly, we discovered the closer people feel to God, the better they feel about themselves. They're more satisfied with their lives than others, they're more optimistic and lead healthier lives. Experiencing a closeness with God is a key factor in people who forgive themselves and forgive others."

5. The need to be listened to and be heard.

In one survey the unchurched were asked what would be most likely to draw them back. The answer, Gallup reported: "If I could find a pastor, priest, or rabbi with whom I could share my religious needs and doubts."

Additionally, Gallup said, laity desire more significant leadership roles in the church. "If churches want to keep the laity in the church, . . . they need to be given leadership roles. The clergy need to listen more carefully to what the laity is saying."

"Religion of the future is more likely to be shaped from the bottom up than from the top down," he declared.

"Americans overwhelmingly think the future of the church will be shaped by the laity more than by the clergy. Not only do they believe it will happen, they believe it should happen."

6. The need to feel one is growing in faith.

"People do not like to suffer periods of spiritual stagnation," he explained.

"Seven out of 10 Americans say they have experienced a change in faith

during their lifetimes.

"Churches need to pay close attention to the passages people experience in their faith lives. They need help understanding the significance of these changes."

7. The need for practical help in developing a mature faith.

"The clergy often make assumptions about the depth of religious commitment of members of their churches," Gallup said. Clergy assume their parishioners have more fully developed prayer lives and higher levels of knowledge about the faith and traditions of their denomination, he added.

"Clergy therefore often find themselves trying to win support for programs and causes from a laity that is spiritually listless and uninformed."

Gallup also said that, although Americans appear to be religious, there is a gap between what they say they believe and what they practice, George Gallup Jr. said.

To illustrate he reported eight in 10 Americans say they're Christians, but only four in 10 know who delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

Gallup described this gap in three categories: knowledge, ethics, and belonging.

"The lack of biblical knowledge in this country is tragic. We say we believe the 10 Commandments are valid rules for living, but we can't name them. We revere the Bible, but we don't read it. Many people don't know the significance of Easter."

"It's really a very frightening situa-



## BAPTIST RECORD DAY

Next Sunday is Baptist Record Sunday.

I hope you will remind your people of the value of free speech and of a free press. It is said that "in war, truth is the first casualty." Only the truth can set us free.

We publish more than 115,000 papers each week. Most of these go into the homes of our church members. Through the Every Family Plan, the Baptist Record will cost you 11 cents per week, per family. This is a small amount to pay for information on churches, associations, the Convention, plus family matters, stewardship, mission work, and a dozen other vital topics. Since 1877 the Baptist Record has sought to be truthful and a paper of integrity . . . Two scarce items in today's marketplace.

tion because not being grounded in one's faith, we're open for anything that comes along," Gallup said. "That's why the New Age movement has tremendous power to grab people. Many people who say they are Christians subscribe to New Age beliefs. In fact New Age is just as strong among traditionally religious people as among those who are not traditionally religious."

In a survey of 19 social values, following God's will ranked "far down the list among the public's choices, behind happiness and satisfaction,"

Gallup reported. In another survey of eight important traits, teenagers rated religious faith as least important, behind attributes such as patience and hard work.

Further, church involvement "does not seem to make a great deal of difference in the way we live our lives," Gallup said.

Gallup said Americans believe in God, "but this God is often only an affirming one, not a demanding one. He does not command our total allegiance."

Wingfield writes for HMB.

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# 66 youths reach Bible Drill finale



Bible Drill winners are Chris Wallace, second place, to Ridgecrest; Dana Kendrick, first place, to Glorieta; and Melody Hanberry, alternate.

By Robin Nichols

The 1991 Mississippi Baptist Bible Drills had an estimated 3,000 children and youths participating. The state finals in April, held in 11 locations, had an increased attendance of 7.4 percent over 1990. Memory work for the participants begins as early as December.

The 1991 Youth Bible Drill Selection Tournament took place April 27 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Youths qualified for this tournament by making two mistakes or fewer in the previous drills.

A total of 66 young people in grades 7-9 participated in the tournament. Its purpose is to select two young people to represent Mississippi at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Conference Centers.

Dana Kendrick of Petal Harvey Church, Lebanon Association, will represent Mississippi at Glorieta. Chris Wallace of Rocky Creek Church,

George Association, will represent Mississippi at Ridgecrest. Melody Hanberry of Oral Church, Lamar Association, is an alternate.

Six finalists will be guests of the Discipleship Training Department during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Gulfshore, July 11-13.

The finalists are Melody Hanberry, Oral, Lamar; Jency Plunkett, Southside, Monroe; Rebekah Young, Hope, Neshoba; Michelle Winstead, Hope, Neshoba; Todd Winstead, Hope, Neshoba; and Voda Flemans, Big Creek, Calhoun. Melody Hanberry will also serve as alternate for Dana and Chris.

The Discipleship Training Department awarded 46 young people nine-year plaques. Each engraved plaque represents nine years of participation in children's and youth's state Bible Drills, grades 4-12. Bible Drills is open only to children and youths in this age group.

There were approximately 350 judges who helped during the 11 state drills. This number does not include the undetermined number of judges who worked in the churches and associations preparing the participants for state drills.

Preparation help is available for leaders in Bible Drills. Associations will hold Bible Drill clinics in the fall or winter. These clinics help leaders (See **BIBLE DRILL** on page 4)



Antonio Akins is winner of the youth speakers' tournament.

## Akins wins 1st, speakers' tourney

Ten young people participated in the Youth Speakers' Tournament, April 27, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, representing a larger number of associational participants.

Antonio Akins of First Church, Olive Branch, will represent Mississippi at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center this summer where he will present his speech to registrants there.

Antonio's topic, "Being a Positive Witness," won him the highest marks at the tournament.

Antonio is a junior at Olive Branch High School. He plays football and is in the drama club. He is in the youth choir, ensemble, and witnessing team (See **SPEAKERS** on page 4)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 30, 1991

Published Since 1877

## President Bush to address Atlanta SBC on Thursday

By Herb Hollinger

ATLANTA (BP) — Invited by Southern Baptist Convention officials, President George Bush has agreed to address the closing session of the Atlanta annual meeting June 6 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

President Bush will arrive in Atlanta Thursday morning and speak at 11:45 for about 15 minutes, SBC and White House officials confirmed.

"The President is a man of faith and a man of prayer. Under his leadership a new wave of patriotism has engulfed this nation," said Chapman. "Southern Baptists have prayed often

for President Bush. Now we have the extraordinary opportunity to hear him during our convention," said Chapman.

The president will meet for about 20 minutes with about 30 "key Southern Baptist leaders" prior to his convention address. Those key leaders will be invited to the session by Chapman.

The invitation did not include a topic for the president but did indicate the Wednesday evening session will focus on a "Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening in America."

"With your coming the following morning, we would anticipate the most dynamic back to back sessions in Southern Baptist history," the invitation said.

The last time a sitting U.S. president spoke to the Southern Baptist Convention was in Norfolk, Va., in 1976. Also a Republican, Gerald Ford spoke at Norfolk, having succeeded to the presidency following Richard Nixon's resignation.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

## Evangelist Bailey Smith offered North Jacksonville pastorate

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Atlanta evangelist Bailey Smith has been asked to become pastor of North Jacksonville Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

If Smith takes the pastorate of the 5,000-member church, it will mean Jacksonville will have two former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention serving in its two largest Baptist churches. Jerry Vines, pastor of the 20,000-member First Church downtown, was SBC president in 1989 and 1990. Smith served in 1981 and 1982.

Smith said he will preach at the church June 9 "in view of a call." While that normally would make his

decision almost certain, Smith said he hasn't made up his mind about the position. He said he has been "totally in prayer" about the offer for several weeks, but added: "I don't have an answer for them, frankly."

Smith, 52, was pastor of the 14,000-member First Southern Church of Del City, Okla., when he was elected SBC president. He later left the Del City pastorate to enter full-time evangelism.

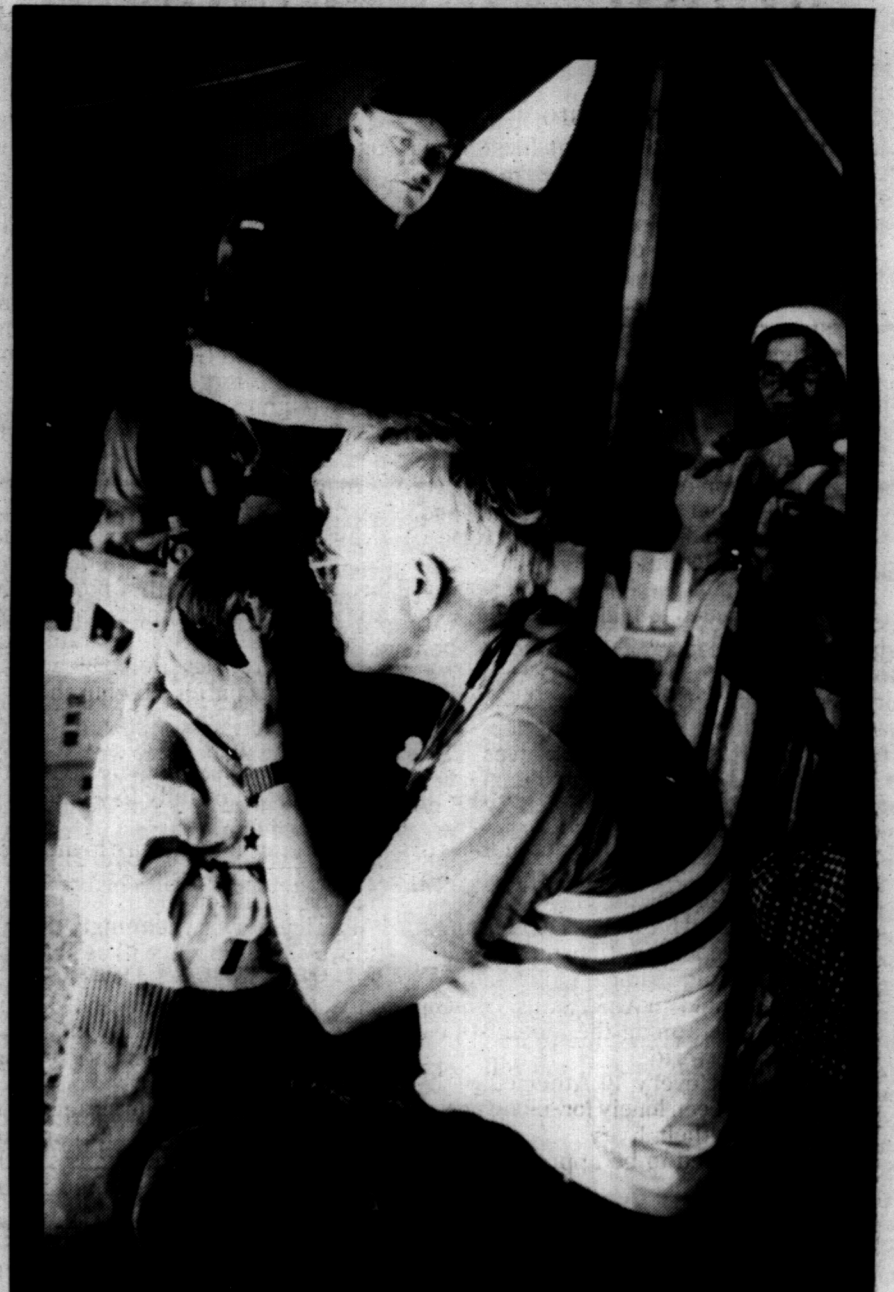
While other churches have tried unsuccessfully to coax Smith back into the pastorate, the Jacksonville offer is different, he said. His evangelistic ministry has experienced its "best year ever," he said, "but for some

reason, I can't get that church totally off my mind."

Smith preached an evangelistic crusade in Jacksonville in February which resulted in about 600 spiritual decisions, including 478 conversions.

The North Jacksonville congregation was a primary sponsor of the crusade, but Smith has never visited the church. Church members were told about Smith's upcoming visit May 19.

Two years ago, the congregation moved to a new location about six miles north of downtown, but it is heavily in debt because of the move. The \$7.5 million facility includes a 3,500-seat auditorium.



**TOUCH OF COMPASSION** — As an allied coalition soldier and a Kurdish woman look on, volunteer physician Robert Mann shares a tender moment with a child in a Kurdish refugee camp in northern Iraq. Mann, a pediatrician from Arlington, Texas, is among some 20 Southern Baptist volunteers who have aided Kurdish refugees in Iraq and Iran in feeding and medical ministries costing some \$2.4 million in relief donations to date. See related story, p. 1. (BP photo by Terry McMahon)





## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### Gambrell house is no more

The Gambrell House, one of the oldest in Clinton, and the place where legend says the first Baptist Records were printed, has been relegated to the past.

Its owner, First Baptist Church of Clinton, ordered it dismantled the second week of May. It had been constructed in the 1850s at the site of the church's old sanctuary, and later was moved halfway down the hill.

Bill Baker, pastor of First, Clinton, was quoted in *The Clinton News*: "We've tried everything we could (to save the house). We would have liked to fix it up and improve it, but it was in such bad shape it would have cost a ton of money to do so, and it has just gotten worse and worse." The site is a possibility for parking space.

The church offered the house to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, if the Board could pay to have it moved. Neither the Board nor the Baptist Record had funds available for moving the house, so the opportunity to save it for history's sake was lost.

J. B. Gambrell, first editor of the Baptist Record, lived in the house for 16 years. During that time, in 1877, he began the publishing of the Record, with the help of his sons, in an attic room of this house.

Built by L. Allen Wells, the structure also was known as the old Wells house.

The 18-room house belonged to Mississippi College from the 1890s until Mrs. R. W. Hall Sr. bought it in 1959. Three generations of Halls lived in it. Also, during the 1960s, several apartments in it were rented to college students. The church bought it last year from the Hall family.

To me, that empty spot on College Street is a sad, sad sight.

### Reunions occur at Blue Mountain

Friday, May 17, was hot, its air a sweltering blob of humidity. I drove that day to Blue Mountain College. The Alumnae Association was meeting there that day and the next; I went as a guest of Grace Lovelace to help her celebrate the golden 50-year reunion of her class, the Class of 1941. I was never a student at Blue Mountain, but it seems to be somewhat similar to my own alma mater, Judson, which Life magazine once called "a college for gentlewomen."

During Friday night's picnic on the terrace of the student union building, a wonderful breeze sprang up. That and the thunderstorm that followed brought a blessed coolness.

In business session Saturday, President Harold Fisher brought an optimistic "Look at BMC 1991." Sharon Ball Enzor, Class of 1966, assistant professor of science at BMC, delivered an address. When the Class of 1931 — of 60 years ago! — was introduced (seven were there), I recognized Sibyl Brame Townsend, long-time Yazoo Citian who has moved to the Washington, D.C. area to be near her daughter, Carol, and Pansy Rankin of Fulton, mother of Jerry Rankin, a Foreign Mission Board area director.

The college actually is on somewhat of a mountain, and in a green setting of tall old oaks, magnolias in blossom, trickling fountains, and old-fashioned flowerbeds. Grace and I spent the night in Whitfield Dorm, where Grace's late mother, Gertrude Lovelace, lived when she was dean of women at Blue Mountain. Grace, who lives in Clinton, worked at the Baptist Building for 23½ years before retiring.

In the dorm, we found ourselves



Annie Hendricks, Class of 1942, registrar, Blue Mountain College, and Grace Lovelace of Clinton, Class of 1941.

sharing a suite with a husband and wife. That would have been fine, except that the bathroom, which the two bedrooms shared, had no doors. Rather than take showers with our housecoats on (!), Grace and I moved into the guest room of the apartment next door, which happened to be that of the registrar, Annie Hendricks. Naturally we moved at Annie's invitation. That move not only gave us lots of room, but also improved the scenery for the couple we left behind!

An award at Saturday's luncheon went to Mary Louise Oakley Merrill as 1991 Alumna of the Year, who has had "a distinguished professional career in education as a teacher in Olive Branch, Miss., and in the Memphis, Tenn., public school systems."

Eleven from Class of 1941 breakfasted together. A remark from one of them I especially remember. She said, "As I have talked with my classmates, I have realized, that though we are now different on the outside, we are still the same girls on the inside that we were 50 years ago."

## capsules

**RALPH BETHEA RESIGNS AS KENYA MISSIONARY:** RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Ralph Bethea Jr., whose wife, Lynda, was murdered March 27 by highway robbers in Kenya, has resigned as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary. His resignation will be effective July 1. In a letter to John Faulkner, director for Southern Baptist mission work in eastern and southern Africa, Bethea said he was resigning for family reasons. He said his four children "need to be with my family here in America for the coming years," adding: "I need to be close with them. I need the time personally for grieving and healing." The two older sons, Ralph III, 17, and Joshua, 13, returned to Kenya after their mother's burial in the United States to complete school, which ends in July. The younger children, Luke, 12, and Lizette, 9, and their father remained in Claremore, Okla., with his parents, Lizette and Ralph Bethea Sr., former Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, and India.

**WMU NATIONAL OFFICE TO CLOSE JUNE 3:** BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The national office of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will be closed Monday, June 3, to allow all employees to attend the WMU annual meeting at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The building will reopen on Tuesday, June 4. Incoming calls to WMU's general phone number, (205) 991-8100, will be answered by an answering machine. Any messages which are left on Monday will be delivered to the appropriate staff members on the following day.

**ACTS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE OF SBC:** ATLANTA (BP) — A combination of live and delayed coverage of selected portions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting from Atlanta June 4-6 will be broadcast on the American Christian Television System network.

The Call to Spiritual Awakening will be broadcast live Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The event will last two hours and 40 minutes.

Also scheduled to be broadcast live are the Baptist Hour 50th anniversary program Thursday, June 6, at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) followed by a message by President George Bush, which will close the convention. The Baptist Hour program and the address by President Bush will be broadcast live both on ACTS and FamilyNet, also operated by the RTVC.

**ROMANIAN PRESIDENT TELLS BAPTISTS: "WE NEED YOU"** — BUCHAREST, Romania (BP) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu has asked Baptists to help rebuild Romania and "restore the moral values in our people." Iliescu met with 12 Romanian and European Baptist leaders during the May 3-5 Congress of the Union of Christian Baptist Churches of Romania, the 3-5 Congress of the Union of Christian Baptist Churches of Romania, the first in nearly 50 years.



Hope Church (Neshoba) presented plaques May 5, to three youths who were finalists in the State Bible Drill Selection Tournament at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. They are, left to right, Michelle Winstead, Todd Winstead, and Rebekah Young. Being among the eight finalists, all three will have the opportunity to be guests of the Discipleship Training Department at Gulfshore in July. Bible drill leader Glenda Williamson, far left, was also presented a plaque for many years of outstanding service. James H. Young Jr. is pastor.

### BIBLE DRILL

From page 3

make preparation for children and youths in memory and Bible skills.

Also, Bible Drill leaders may participate in the Bible Drill Conference

### SPEAKERS

From page 3

at church. And he plans on attending Mississippi College.

Jennifer Donohoo of Walthall Church, Webster Association, was first runner up. Amanda Shields of First Church, Yalobusha Association, was second runner up.

The other participants were Barbara Faust, Riverhill, Itawamba; April Hicks, Alta Woods, Hinds-Madison; Tim Pippin, Tuckers Crossing, Jones; John Anderson, Emmanuel, Rankin; Julia Massey, First, Water Valley, Yalobusha; Jennifer Lamkin, Emmanuel, Lamar; and Joey Fillingane, Oral, Lamar.

at Gulfshore, July 11-13. This conference teaches leaders how to help the young people in Bible Drills, how to judge, and how to call.

Bible Drill leaflets are available in September. Persons wishing further help are encouraged to contact the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Robin Nichols is youth consultant in the Discipleship Training Department.

### ★ LOW COST ★ LIFE INSURANCE

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
50	17.73	37.20
60	33.13	75.69
70	92.81	224.90

Rates figured on Monthly Cost for Male Non-Smokers. For rates on ages and amounts not shown above, please call: G.K. & ASSOCIATES (918) 481-6991 1-800-274-5022 For 20 years G.K. & Assoc. has assisted many people in finding the most competitive life ins. rates.

Jackson National Life Ins. Co. form no. KL137

## Letters to the editor

### Salvation is unmerited

Editor:

As a Baptist, my belief is that salvation is an unmerited gift of God, to any sinner, who will repent of sin and turn to God. Asking for mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, believing he paid the price completely for our redemption, that this and this alone is what saves a person from hell. I have noticed several things in our literature lately and also have heard it from several different preachers, that we must make a commitment of our life to Christ, before we can be saved. I am quoting from adult Sunday School book, front cover, last paragraph: "Admit your sin and ask Jesus to deliver you from the consequences of sin. Yield control of your life to him as your Lord and Savior, and you will be saved." I agree you should give your life to Christ and live for him, but this is not a necessary part of salvation. Also in the article by Ruth N. Allen in the Baptist Record of the week of 5-16-91, where she is quoting E. Stanley Jones' definition of salvation, the article says "that change, sudden or gradual, by which we pass from the kingdom of self to the kingdom of God by the grace and power of Christ." The important thing, as emphasized by Jones, is not how you arrived, but have you arrived?"

There is only one way to enter heaven — that is through the forgiveness of sins, through the purchase price, paid by the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary, for everyone who will believe.

I believe by insinuating that we have to surrender our life to Christ at the time of conviction is misleading. This is something we do after we have been given this precious gift of God. I don't think we need to leave the impression that we gradually get salvation by holding out or doing good. This could cause someone to miss heaven.

Geneva Faler  
Collins

### Ivory Coast needs prayer

Editor:

Margaret Fairburn and I are now stationed in Cote D'Ivoire.

We are assigned to work with Liberian refugees who are now in and along the border of Cote D'Ivoire. We very much need the prayers of Mississippi Baptists, as this is an extremely new type of work for us. Pray that we will not be overcome by the physical conditions that the people live in, and their lack of daily needs. And that in the midst of it all, we might be able to share the love of Christ.

Rachel DuBard  
San Pedro, Cote D'Ivoire

### Tribute to Ray

Editor:

Percy Ray, pastor of Myrtle Church for 55 years, died in his sleep at his home, April 11, 1991, at the age of 81. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., April 14, at Myrtle Baptist Church, with burial in Chalybeate Cemetery, Tippah County.

In 1943 he dedicated seven churches in the open country, free of debt. R. G. Lee preached the seven sermons in seven churches.

September, 1951, Rev. Gwin T. Turner, pastor of Carson Ridge Baptist Church, invited Brother Percy Ray to conduct revival services during the revival. Brother Ray was asked to make suggestion on building a new church at Carson Ridge near Ethel, Miss. In that service there were enough pledges to start the church. Brother Ray donated one-third of the brick.

The church was dedicated on August 9, 1953, debt free. Those assisting in the dedication services were: Rev. Percy Ray, Rev. Gwin T. Turner, and Rev. Jimmy Amond.

Mrs. Jeff (Lilian) Woods  
Kosciusko

Then there was the football player whose teammates called him "Judge," because he sat on the bench so much.

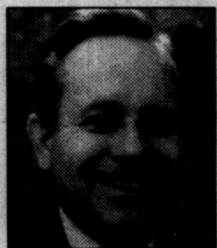


# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 30, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## One Minute Witness

by J. Garland McKee, Director  
Evangelism Department, MBCB

This is what I call my ONE MINUTE WITNESS. We live in a most profuse mobile society. To build witnessing relationships is a real need in our day and we must work at that. However, none of us will ever have opportunity to build a relationship with most of the lost multitudes in Mississippi, America, and the world. These people are lost and need a witness. ONE MINUTE WITNESS is a way that can bear witness to the lost in our fast moving world. I have been using this witness verbally every day for 31 years. Though I constructed this, there is no copyright and I desire it to be copied, printed, distributed, and used to the glory of the Lord and to the salvation of the lost anywhere and everywhere.

### One Minute Witness

Anywhere, anytime you will come to Jesus with an earnest, sincere heart, by prayer and simple faith; admit, confess your sin to Jesus; believe in your heart that Jesus died on the cross, arose from the dead to save you, and you will ask Him to forgive you of your sin and save your soul; you will repent (that means turn around), turn from your sin to Jesus, receive Jesus in your heart by faith as your personal Saviour, His promise is He will save you just as He did me one day when I gave my heart to Him. You need to, you ought to, and the most wonderful part of it all is you can. Eternal life is available to you. You can give your heart to Jesus right now because salvation takes place in your heart. It is urgent that you decide now and quit putting it off for you are the one who has to give your heart to Jesus. Nobody can do that for you. I want you to know I will do anything I can right now to lead you to Jesus as your personal Saviour; pray with you, pray for you, and you may be assured I will pray for you, but you are the one who has to give your heart to Jesus.

John 3:16      Holy Bible      Romans 10:9-10

*This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.*

## Look for Improved Sunday School Literature

During the past few issues of HOUSETOPS you have been made aware of some improvements in relationship to the Sunday School curriculum. These improvements are scheduled to begin in October, 1991. The improvements are in the areas of added evangelism, added application, special help for teachers, greater ease of use, and increased attractiveness. These improvements are being placed in the literature of all ages.

There is one major change that needs to be brought to the attention

of Sunday School General Officers. The age group leadership magazines will be changed from five magazines to two magazines.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER: SMALLER CHURCH EDITION will be a 48-page magazine published quarterly for pastors, Sunday School directors, other general officers, and workers in all age groups. It will be written especially for churches and/or missions with up to 150 enrolled in Sunday School. This will be the first time such a magazine has been designed and written with the smaller church needs as the focus.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER: LARGER CHURCH EDITION will be an 80-page monthly magazine designed for leaders in churches with a Sunday School enrollment of 1500 or more. It will be designed for pastors, Sunday School directors,



other general officers, and workers in all age groups. The material contained in this magazine will be written specifically for the needs of the larger church.

Both leadership magazines will be listed on the dated Church Literature Order form. **HT**

## Senior Adults Gather for Festival

The State Senior Adult Choir Festival was held in March at the First Baptist Church in Clinton. Sixteen Choirs sang for adjudication. There were over thirty choirs in attendance.

Guy Hovis provided the special entertainment. L. Graham Smith served as Master of Ceremonies. John H. Hanbery coordinated the event. **HT**

Doug Broome      Bill Baker

## TRAINING AT GULFSHORE

*preparation for  
a lifetime*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCES

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| *I August 1-3   | III September 6-7  |
| *II August 8-10 | IV September 13-14 |

Doug Broome, Calvary Baptist Church Waynesboro, MS, will be the worship leader August 1-3.

Bill Baker, First Baptist Church, Clinton, MS, will be the worship leader August 8-10.

These men are truly unique in presenting in an exciting way the Basics of Sunday School Work and the Gospel.

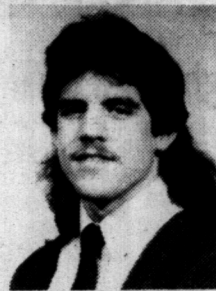
\*Childcare during Sessions I and II.

For housing information contact Frank Simmons, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Phone: 601/452-7261. For program information contact Sunday School Department. Phone: 601/968-3800.



# Mississippi Baptist

## 1991 Student



KEITH CONNER  
Miss. State  
Australia



HUGH FREEZE  
U.S.M.  
Australia



ROWLAND HALL  
Miss. College  
Australia



MARTY LIPSCOMB  
Miss. College  
Australia



DIANNE COXWELL  
U.S.M.  
Canada



CHRISTOPHER HENRY  
Miss. College  
Canada



RHONDA HENSARLING  
William Carey  
Canada



BETH HICKMAN  
Miss. State  
Canada



MICHAEL KELLY  
Holmes  
Canada



KIM BARADELL  
Meridian  
California



LEGINA BISHOP  
East Central  
California



KEVIN BOWER  
Miss. College  
California



STACY BROADWATER  
U.S.M.  
California



GERVAISE CHUAH  
Univ. Miss.  
California



KATHRYN CLAYTON  
Miss. State  
California



CHRISTY DABBS  
Miss. College  
California



TIFFANY DOWNS  
USM  
California



JON FANCHER  
Clarke  
California



MELANIE MURPHY  
Jones  
California



ROSELYN NICHOLS  
Pearl River  
California



KIM OGLESBEE  
Miss. State  
California



RONNIE PANNELL  
Clarke  
California



SHELLY PEEPLES  
Hinds  
California



MELANIE ROGERS  
Miss. State  
California



SCOTT SAVELL  
Miss. College  
California



BEVERLY STANK  
Jones  
California



DENA TOWNSEND  
Miss. College  
California



JEFF PINNOW  
Delta State  
Florida



BENITA ROBERTS  
Delta State  
Florida



DAVID THURMAN  
Clarke  
Hawaii



LORI WALKER  
Miss. College  
Hawaii



JENNIFER CONRAD  
Clarke  
Illinois



TAMMIE LAIRD  
Northeast  
Illinois



MICKEY PARKER  
Miss. College  
Illinois



MINDY WOOLEY  
Miss. College  
Illinois



JEFF GARDNER  
Miss. State  
Iowa



STEPHEN SMITH  
Miss. State  
Montana



RODNEY DOBBS  
Miss. State  
Nebraska



BRIAN TATUM  
Pearl River  
Nebraska



SELESTE LEACH  
Blue Mountain  
Nevada



LEAH MEADOWS  
Jones  
Nevada



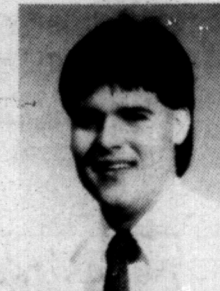
ROSE BRADLEY  
Blue Mountain  
New Mexico



JOANNA GERALD  
U.S.M.  
New Mexico



BRIAN HILL  
Hinds  
New York

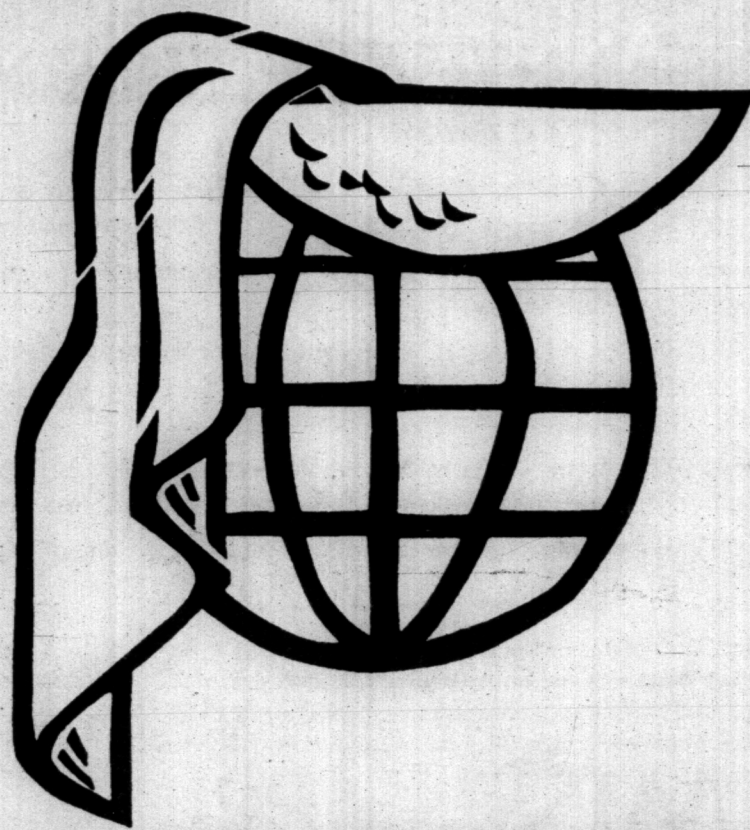


MICHAEL BOWERS  
Miss. State  
The Northwest

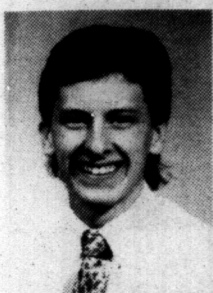


# ist Student Union

## t Missionaries



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Australia



HEATHER McCULLAR  
Blue Mountain  
Australia



JILL VAUGHN  
U.S.M.  
Australia



LORI ARD  
Univ. Miss.  
Canada



LISA THOMPSON  
Univ. Miss.  
Kenya



KIM HERRINGTON  
Jones  
Alaska



RODDY REED  
Hinds  
Alaska



STACEY WOODRUFF  
Miss. College  
Alaska



NOEL ALSBROOK  
Blue Mountain  
California



BRADLEY GOLMON  
Miss. College  
California



PAM GUNTARP  
Itawamba  
California



BRENT GUY  
Gulf Coast  
California



SANDY HILLIARD  
Itawamba  
California



PENNY KING  
Co-Lin  
California



SUSAN LEE  
Miss. State  
California



MELINDA McADAMS  
Itawamba  
California



KENT MARSHALL  
Miss. State  
California



ALBERT MOORE  
Northeast  
California



ANNA WALKER  
Jones  
California



BRENDA GRAY  
Univ. Miss.  
Colorado



ERIC SMITH  
Hinds  
Colorado



BECKY COURTNEY  
Hinds  
Dakotas



TANYA GRACEY  
Miss. State  
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DEBBIE MOORE  
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TIM BUMPUS  
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Florida



MARY HELEN COLLINS  
Miss. State  
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JILL WALKER  
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DAVID WALLACE  
Blue Mountain  
Iowa



KIM JONES  
Pearl River  
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STACY O'QUIN  
Miss. College  
Maryland/Del



HOPE EAVENSON  
Co-Lin  
Minn/Wisc



SHELTON IVEY  
Blue Mountain  
Minn/Wisc



SISSY MERRITT  
Jones  
Missouri



HOLLY HARDIN  
Miss. College  
Montana



SANDY PIERCE  
Gulf Coast  
Montana



AMY CASTILLO  
Northwest  
The Northwest



DANIEL HYAMS  
Miss. State  
The Northwest



JAMES JOLLY  
Jones  
The Northwest



DAWN KELLY  
Hinds  
The Northwest



CHRIS KENNEDY  
Miss. College  
The Northwest



GREG QUILLIN  
Miss. College  
The Northwest



SCOTT WALTERS  
William Carey  
The Northwest



TRUDY ROUTH  
Blue Mountain  
Puerto Rico



CHARLES JACKSON  
Co-Lin  
Washington, DC



## ANNUITY BOARD SUNDAY, JUNE 23

One trait of Southern Baptists is our emphases. We have weeks of prayer for mission offerings, Day of Prayer for World Peace, Senior Adult Day, Race Relations Sunday and the list goes on.

June 23 is Annuity Board Sunday. What separates this day from other days is the focus is not on the message but the messenger.

"Annuity Board Sunday is an opportunity for the Annuity Board and Southern Baptists to salute the thousands of ministers who are actively serving the Lord and those who have retired," said Board President Paul Powell.

This year's theme is "Love Always Protects" and is a helpful reminder to congregations that out of love for the minister, the church takes on the responsibility to protect the minister and his family," he said.

You can celebrate Annuity Board Sunday in many ways. We would like to offer you 12 suggestions.

1. List in church newsletter and/or worship service bulletin the names of members who are retired ministers, church staff members, missionaries or Baptist agency/institutional employees. Include a brief statement of their work or the last position they held.
2. Honor retired ministers, missionaries or staff members in the morning worship service by having them stand, present a flower to each lady, and offer a special prayer of thanksgiving and blessing.
3. Honor retired ministers, missionaries or staff members with a luncheon on June 23.
4. Place flowers in the church in honor of retired ministers, missionaries and staff members.
5. Invite any minister, staff member or widow who was serving at your church at the time of retirement to return and be recognized in the service.
6. Name a new Sunday School class in honor of a retired minister.
7. Invite your state's annuity representative to preach and interpret the ministry of the Annuity Board.
8. Erect a plaque in honor of a long-time minister who has retired.
9. Invite a retired minister or missionary to speak on his/her vision for the Southern Baptist Convention or church.
10. Adopt An Annuitant by pledging \$50 a month for one year or give a single perpetual endowment of \$7,500. (Call 1-800-262-0511 for details).
11. If there is a retired minister or missionary in your church, have him or her visit with a children's Sunday School department to tell about his/her ministry.
12. Schedule a special prayer in the morning worship service to ask God's blessing on the work of the Annuity Board and for His comfort and grace for more than 20,000 annuitants receiving monthly benefits.

## Chaplain Endorsement Underway



Richard Brogan, Cooperative Missions Department, and Ch. Col. Billy J. Jones, (Retired) State Chaplaincy Coordinator, interviewed chaplain candidates Tanya Anderson and Lt. Ray Hunt for endorsement by the Chaplain's Division of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta. Chaplain Anderson is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. She is originally from Louisiana and has responded to a definite call to ministry. She is employed full-time at Golden Triangle Hospital, Columbus, Mississippi.

Chaplain Ray Hunt is already endorsed as a reserve Chaplain and is seeking an "update" by the HMB in anticipation of an active duty assignment. A native of Clinton, Chaplain Hunt holds a B.A. from Mississippi College and a master of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. Chaplain Hunt is currently on staff at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, as a minister of youth.

Both candidates expressed a high degree of professionalism in responding to questions regarding "calling, knowledge of ministry, education, and understanding of endorsement of the Baptist Faith and Message," said Brogan.

Brogan and Jones are unanimous in their recommendation to the Home Mission Board for endorsement at the earliest possible date. **HT**

## New Format for Youth Discipleship Curriculum

The July unit in the July-August-September 1991 issue of **Baptist Youth** will feature a new look that has been designed to warn youth about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Modifying the traditional **Baptist Youth** format, the July unit will first feature a set of youth worksheets—one worksheet for each week in the unit. Following the worksheets will be corresponding leaders' instructions. Here leaders will find the biblical background, content, and guidance combined in an easy-to-use format.

More art, a more open layout, and innovative group activities have been designed to enhance learning. The youth worksheets resemble the study worksheets in **DiscipleNow Manual**.

Robin Nichols, Youth Discipleship consultant says, "The July unit will be a pilot project. Leaders are encouraged to contact the Youth Section, MSN 152; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 605-251-2855, indicating whether they would like future issues of **Baptist Youth** to contain units with this design." **HT**

## REJOICE IN THE LORD



Your church can receive specific help in training Christians to be happy disciples.



968-3800

## CHURCHLIFE Offers New Benefit

The Annuity Board's ChurchLife Plans added a new benefit this year called Living Benefit Option.

This option allows persons who are terminally ill with a life expectancy of six months or less to receive up to 25 percent of their plan benefit before they die.

The balance of the term benefit will be paid to the participant's beneficiary at death. The maximum Living Benefit is \$25,000.

This new option is offered as a response to people's concern about finances if they should become terminally ill. It can help meet financial needs during a difficult time. For more information about the Living Benefit Option and ChurchLife Plans, call the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511. **HT**



# Names in the news



**William P. Osborne**, director, clinical services, Sassafras Hills Counseling Center, Hattiesburg, recently presented a chapel program at Clarke College on responsibility. Osborne is shown above with John Dent, chapel coordinator, Clarke College.

**Carolyn Winborne**, soprano soloist/music director, is available for supply, retreats, revivals, and conferences. She may be reached at P. O. Box 187, Mt. Olive, MS 39119, 601-797-4326.

**Alton Fagan** has resigned his pastorate in Texas to return to Mississippi. He is available for revivals, supply, interim, and pastor. He can be reached at 583-9653 or P. O. Box 944, Petal, MS 39465.

The new address for **Alvin and Mary Doyle**, foreign missionaries to Nigeria, is P. O. Box 396, Zaria, Nigeria, West Africa.

**Holmes Carlisle**, director of missions for Scott County Association, announces his retirement June 30, 1991. Carlisle has served this association for 30 years, and has seen the work there grow to 37 churches and a host of mission activities. Carlisle and his wife Carmel will be honored with a reception June 30, 2-4 p.m. at the Forest Church.



"Miss Fannye" Pollan was chosen for special senior adult recognition May 5 at First Church, Itta Bena. Pollan has served as a home missionary in Illinois, and as education director in Columbus, Miss. and Louisville, Ky. She went to Itta Bena FBC in March 1952 as education director, and has served the congregation as pianist for 41 years. Doyle Cummings is pastor.



Instruction and entertainment were provided to Clarke College chapel attendees recently. **Henry Hight**, pastor of Slate Springs Church, Calhoun Association, told Bible stories through "gospel magic."

## Staff changes

**Derma Church**, Derma, has called **Melissa Moore** as minister of youth, effective June 5. A native of Houston, she received her degree in music from the University of Mississippi. Her previous place of service was Faith Church in Houston, where she was minister of music.

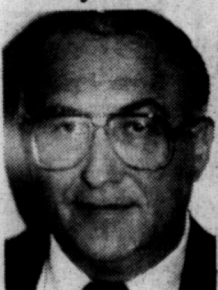
**Joe Epting** has resigned as pastor of Banner Church, Calhoun County. He has accepted **Randolph Church**, Pontotoc County, effective June 16. He received his education from Clarke College, Blue Mountain College, and received his diploma in pastoral ministries through the seminary extension.



Epting

**Big Creek Church**, Waynesboro, recently called **Barney Bagley** as pastor. Bagley is a graduate of Florida Baptist College and Mobile College and has held pastorates in Alabama and Mississippi. He comes from Gulfcrest Church at Churchula, Ala. where he served as pastor for five years.

**Cary Worthington** became the pastor of **West Laurel Church**, Laurel, on May 5.



Worthington

He received a B.A. from Arkansas College, Batesville, Ark. and master of divinity from Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. He has pastored Cowart Church, Charleston, Wallerville Church, New Albany, and Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman. He has several honors which include 1990 Interfaith Witness Associate of the Year: Home Mission Board, SBC. Numerous conferences throughout the nation on Cults and New Religious Movements which in-

clude Ridgecrest, Greenlake Conference Center, and Gulfshore Conference Center.

**First Church**, Winona has called **Thomas M. Gillon** as minister of music and youth. He formerly served in this position at Mt. Zion Church, Northwest Association.



Gillon

**Chris Custer**, student at Mississippi College, has been called as youth intern. **John L. Walker** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED

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Of course, it isn't easy to prove that there is a God. In fact, nowhere in the Bible does God attempt to prove his existence. But have you ever considered how much more difficult it is to disprove God's existence? — C. NEIL STRAIT

## MEDICARE DISABILITY

At last we have a policy for those who are on Medicare disability. This policy is available for as little as \$425.00 per year. (\$35.00 monthly bank draft)

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A sleep disorder can turn you into a different character.

And it's anything but funny.

A lot of people have trouble sleeping. They're tired in the morning. Extremely sleepy during the day. They're

irritable, find it hard to concentrate, and generally feel out of it. They may hear complaints that they snore, gasp for air and seem to stop breathing through the night.

What they don't realize is that they may suffer from a sleep disorder. A potentially life-threatening sleep disorder. A disorder like sleep apnea which may be associated with high blood pressure, an increased risk of stroke or heart attack, and even personality changes.

So, a lot more may be at risk than just a good night's sleep.

Call the Sleep Disorders Center of Mississippi. We'll help you decide if you might benefit from an overnight evaluation, covered by most insurance carriers.

Don't let another restless night go by without calling.

968-1157 • 1-800-543-6583

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER**

Sleep Disorders Center of Mississippi<sup>SM</sup>  
1225 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202-2002



# Just for the Record

**Dale Stegall Townsend** was licensed to preach, March 17, and ordained to the music ministry, April 21. Both services were held at Concord Church, Pelahatchie. Townsend serves as minister of music, Line Creek Church, Morton. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Townsend of Concord community, Pelahatchie. Shown left to right are LaVerne Summerlin, pastor, Concord Church; Townsend; and Robertson, pastor, Line Creek Church.



The youths of Mtn. Creek Church, Florence, will have a Spaghetti Supper on Friday, June 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$3.50 per plate. For more information, call Darlene Kennedy at 845-6714. The youths are raising money for a trip this summer.

## Revival dates

**Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** June 2-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mack Walker, Nebo Church, Jena, La., evangelist; Claude Bowlin, Ramah Church, music; Fred Morris Sr., pastor.

**Maybank Church, Hattiesburg:** June 2-7; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; George Aultman, Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, Hattiesburg, music; Freddie Odom, interim pastor.

**Good Hope Church, Purvis (Lamar):** June 2-7; 7 p.m. nightly; Jerry Mayfield, evangelist; Eric McNair, music; Carl Estes, pastor.

**Antioch Church (Neshoba):** June 2-6; Sunday, 9:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Howard Catledge, interim pastor; Kevin Thompson, music.

## Senior adult corner

**First Church, Columbus,** honored its senior adults on May 11 with a celebration of music, food, and fellowship. The Super Senior Singers presented their "Rainbow Show" a combination of songs reminiscent of vaudeville, Tommy Dorsey, Lawrence Welk, and even a little Hee-Haw. Wayne Jackson is director and minister of music at First Church. Jeannine Fraser is pianist.



## Grenada churches help in Florida

Forty-two volunteers from Grenada Association participated in construction and ministry projects in Graceville, Fla. over spring break. Adults from eight churches replaced roofs on two duplexes and one single unit building on the Florida Baptist College campus. Youths presented a puppet show at Harmony Mission and other churches, distributed scriptures, and worked in a day care center. Florida Baptist College President Thomas Kinchen said in appreciation of the work, "The Mississippi team did more than nail down shingles. They nailed down a strong Christian witness in our community, and they nailed down a place in our hearts . . ." The project was coordinated by Lyle and Rose Corey, volunteer in missions coordinators for Grenada Association. Art Leslie is director of missions.

**Winston County Association** is seeking a director of missions. Due to the retirement of the director of missions for the association, Jerry Stevens, a committee is "seeking God's person for this position," according to Kent H. Cochran, pastor, Calvary Church, Louisville. "If you hold a seminary degree and are interested in being a director of missions, send a resume to the Administrative Committee, Box 375, Louisville, MS 39339," he said. Deadline for receiving resumes is June 28, 1991.

**The 64th annual Memorial Decoration — homecoming service of Center Hill Church, Hamilton,** will be observed Sunday, June 2. Regular services will be held with Sunday School at 9:45 and a memorial message by James Towery, pastor, at 11. A covered-dish meal will be served at noon. Gospel singing in the afternoon, beginning at 1. The Hughes Family, Amory, will be featured.

**Byram Church, Byram,** will have a carnival, June 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. James Whittington is pastor.

## Homecomings

**Liberty Church (Carroll):** June 2; 10:45 a.m.; Ron Ballard, director of missions, Carroll-Montgomery Association, guest speaker; lunch on the grounds at noon; singing in afternoon at 1:30; Keith Powell, pastor.

**White Bluff Church (Marion):** June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m. with Sherrod Rayborn group, Lawrence County; Marvin Graham, pastor.

**Antioch Church, Florence:** June 2; 10 a.m.; Robert Walker, former pastor, guest speaker; Todd Vance, music; noon meal will be served with a service to follow; Barry Ward, pastor.

**First Church, State Line (Wayne):** June 2, services begin 9:30 a.m.; Evelyn Gandy, guest speaker; dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing with the "Homefolks"; no night services; Lavon Crane, pastor.

**Indian Springs Church, Perry County:** June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; O. H. Petty, former pastor, message; dinner in the fellowship hall; afternoon service, Rigney Brothers, special music; no evening service; Floyd Seymour, pastor.

**Grace Church, Laurel (Jones):** June 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Allen Nix, DOM, Jones Association, guest speaker; covered dish dinner, noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m. with Mr. and Mrs. Whitlock, Laurel; afternoon service, 3 p.m.; no night service; Mac Parker, pastor.

**Good Hope Church, Purvis (Lamar):** June 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; singing with "The Proclaimers," 1 p.m.; Jerry Mayfield, evangelist; Eric McNair, music; Carl Estes, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Priceville:** June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; memorial and song service, Foundation Quartet, music, 1:30 p.m.; Harold Gartman, pastor.

**Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln):** June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Randy Lewman, leading the service; noon meal after services; business meeting for cemetery association and memorial service following.

**Woodhaven Church, Ocean Springs (Jackson):** June 2; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall, following; Burl Cooley, music director, special music program, 1:30 p.m.; Tracy Martin, pastor.

**First Church, Okolona:** June 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; singing (First Love Revival), after lunch; Roy McHenry, pastor.

**East Heights Church, Tupelo:** June 9; worship, 11 a.m.; Tim McCoy, Macon, guest speaker; covered dish on grounds after service; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Rising Generation, Tupelo, guest singers; 60th anniversary begun June 7 with 21 members, 583 members now; Steve F. Bain, pastor.

## New books from Broadman

**The Bonsai Theory of Church Growth** by Ken Hemphill (128 pp, \$3.25). How to grow them small and keep them that way.

**The Christian Adventure** by Edward E. Thornton (166 pp, \$9.95). The Bible and personal crisis.

**Church Growth Principles** by C. Kirk Hadaway (203 pp, \$11.95). Separating fact from fiction on

growth.

**Casebook for Youth Ministry** by William R. Cromer (160 pp, \$8.95). Group study on the needs and concerns of the youth.

**The People of God** by Paul Basden and David S. Dockery, editors (367 pp, \$19.95). Essays by various writers on believers' church.

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*"Celebrating Our Heritage and Our Hope"*

*June 2 through June 9, 1991*

*June 2*

*June 9*

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*10:50 a.m. Dr. Luther Joe Thompson, Preaching*

*12:30 p.m. Dinner on the ground*

*12:30 p.m. Lunch in Fellowship Hall*

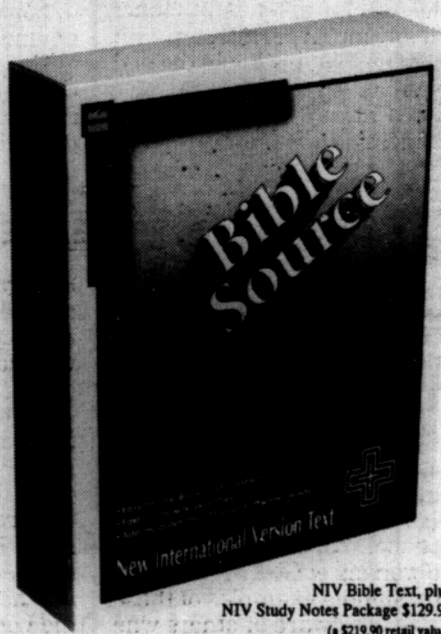
*2:00 p.m. Organ Concert  
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# Hope renewed, for those who believe God

By Ruth N. Allen  
Ezra 1:1-8, 11

In early February of this year, our nation mourned the untimely death of Danny Thomas, comedian and founder of St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. The hospital was founded in 1962 in fulfillment of a vow Thomas made during the 1940's. "St. Jude's has saved the lives of thousands of young cancer patients. Thousands more will be saved in the years to come," reported the Associated Press.



Allen

"When our doors opened 29 years ago, all children with leukemia died," said Dr. Joseph Simone, the hospital's director. "Now our most recent studies show that somewhere around 70 percent of the children with leukemia survive," continues the AP report.

Renewed hope is now offered to patients who formerly had little or no hope. I have witnessed the miraculous work of God and this hospital within my own family structure. What a testimonial, to advance from survivors with no

## UNIFORM

hope to a seven out of ten survival rate!

The hope of all who believe is renewed by the same transcendent God who renewed hope in Ezra and his fellow captives in Babylon. The eternal God is working today through his people to accomplish his will and purpose. Renewed hope is available to those who trust in God.

Dionysius, as Roman emperor, caused musicians to play before him and promised them a great reward. When they came for their reward, he told them they already had received it — in the hopes of it. God will not disappoint his servants. He promises the renewed hope which is in Christ Jesus.

God does not forget his people, regardless of apparent hopeless circumstances (vv. 1-3). The people of Judah, captive in Babylon, had not been left without a sign from God. God had promised his people, through the prophet Jeremiah, that the kings who had enslaved his people would have to pay "for the deeds and work of their hands" (Jeremiah 25:11-14). Consequently, through Cyrus, king of Persia, God carried out his promise.

Ezra and his fellow captives' hopes were kept

alive by the prophecy of Jeremiah. As a result, Cyrus responded to God's spirit by making a proclamation. He proclaimed that God had appointed him to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Anyone desiring to join the expedition was free to do so, and those remaining in Babylon were to help finance the work, for God never loses sight of his people and his purpose.

Not all of the captives chose to return to Judah. The journey posed serious obstacles — tremendous distances, hazards along the roadways, possible personal injury, and formidable difficulties in rebuilding the temple. Besides, 70 years of comfortable living had accustomed the exiles to the prosperity of their land of captivity.

The people of God share a common goal — to make worship accessible to all (v. 4). Some will furnish the labor and others will finance the work. Hope is thus renewed when each person makes his own contribution of labor or funds. Hope becomes reality when others, previously unacquainted with God, join in the true worship of God.

God's people, undeterred by obstacles, gain strength by overcoming adversaries. They diligently prepare for every task because God has touched their hearts and moved them to ac-

tion. To be motivated by God is to make necessary preparations to fulfill the task God assigns; as did the captives in Babylon, moved by God, counted the cost, responded to the call of God, and made all of the necessary preparations.

The motivation of God makes the difference, not the obstacles. God is still motivating people, urging them to live by the motto of William Carey, pioneer of Baptist missions, "ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD; EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD."

A seemingly impossible barrier around the southern extremity of Africa, commonly known as the Cape of Storms, hindered eastward navigation. However, a brave adventurer, Vasco da Gama, sailing past the barrier and charting a new course to the East Indies, acquired for his country the riches of the new world. Since that time the name has been changed to the Cape of Good Hope.

Renewed hope is available to the believer, because Jesus Christ is the pioneer and trailblazer of faith (Hebrews 12:2). He has conquered death and the grave; he has opened up the gateway to the riches of heaven for all.

Allen lives in Jackson, she is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor, Ogden Church, Bentonla.

## Ahithophel and Absalom — the tragedy of wasted lives

By Jerry Vardaman  
2 Sam. 16:15-17:23

Ahithophel:

One is puzzled to understand the actions of one of David's former advisors. This person's name was Ahithophel. After serving David for a while, Ahithophel became an advisor of Absalom — and seems to have directed him in his attempt to overthrow his father, David.



Vardaman

We are told that Ahithophel came from the town of Giloh. This is why he is called the Gilonite (2 Sam. 15:12). Giloh was a town very close to Bethlehem, and to Hebron, from whence Absalom summoned him. Perhaps there had been some degree of rivalry between David and Ahithophel for a long time, and they were acquaintances of long standing. Jealousy could have been one motivation, like rivals one encounters in small towns today (or, unfortunately, in some churches).

More than jealousy ate at the heart of Ahithophel in his attitude towards David, however. There seems to be a good basis for believing that he was the grandfather of Bathsheba. We are told in 2 Sam. 11:3 that Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam; yet, in 2 Sam. 23:34 we are told that Eliam was the son of Ahithophel of Giloh. If we are correct in

## BIBLE BOOK

identifying Ahithophel as Bathsheba's grandfather, we likely have put our finger on the cause for his hostility and implacable hatred towards David. He likely believed that David had injured his family. It was his job to set the matter right! He was ready to advise anyone, and to join such a person if it could bring about the downfall of David.

Ahithophel had one other besetting sin. He was very inflexible and overly-sensitive. He was so filled with personal pride that when his advice was not accepted by Absalom, and he felt that it meant that he no longer had an important role in Absalom's new government, he committed suicide (2 Sam. 17:23). As long as he lived in the limelight and his advice was accepted, he could function (16:23). Let it appear that he might become a person out of favor and Ahithophel saw no future in living. We all know persons who are easily discouraged, and Ahithophel is a warning for all of us not to jump to conclusions and not to be impulsive. If he had been a better judge of character, Ahithophel would have avoided any initial partnership with Absalom. As matters fell out, his life in the end turned out as wasted as Absalom's was.

Absalom: His Wasted Life

One glaring weakness of Absalom is reveal-

ed as he takes counsel with Ahithophel and Hushai. He was not able to make mature judgments for himself. Actually, the advice of Ahithophel was better, if indeed Absalom was really going to be able to rule, and oust David permanently, but he was not mature enough nor wise enough to see what course of action he should take.

Absalom reminds us of rebellious children today. He was dead serious in his desire to kill his father. Perhaps not many children today are guided by that desire, but they are bent on rebellion. This is basically what sin is all about — rebellion against God. To many youths in the present generation, God is a monster who restricts them from the enjoyment of sinful pleasures — sexual, mental, and physical.

Absalom's first action as king was to indulge in sexual activities with his father's harem (16:22). This action symbolized that he had taken the place of his father, as well. The Bible never condemns the practice of sex as such. The Bible honors sexual intercourse within the marriage bond. It is the irresponsible practice of sex — such as Absalom indulges in, in taking his father's wives, that the Bible speaks against. The Bible says: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled" (Heb. 13:4).

The general impression we have of Absalom is that he was a spoiled, undisciplined, rebellious youth. He set on fire the barley fields of Joab when Joab sought to ignore him and

refused to be used of him (2 Sam. 14:30-32). Here is a lesson for all parents as we consider Absalom. Are we too indulgent towards our children for their own sake? I have known parents who gave highpowered automobiles to their children before those same children knew how to handle such vehicles properly, resulting in the death of their children. We can do this with wealth or with other possessions.

One thinks of how foolish it would be to pamper every whim of a developing child. The child might ask for a gun or for a butcher knife. We deny those kinds of requests for harmful items being fully aware that if the child possessed them, they would be to his injury, most likely, and not for his benefit. Before we even give a child a hammer, or allow a child to play with a saw, we make sure that the child can handle such gifts properly. Absalom reminds us of a child who refused to be denied anything. He did not wish to wait until David was dead and then assume control of David's territory; he wanted everything now. One wonders if perhaps secretly he had not ventured into the throne room of David on occasion, to sit on the throne and place the crown on his head? Did he pick up David's scepter and perhaps think, "I want a bigger one than my father has used"? Did he imagine, "I want a newer place, a larger crown, and a greater harem"? One thing we can be sure of — his life was a wasted one — even leaving no male heir (2 Sam. 18:18).

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, MSU.

## Live as God's people: strive for maturity!

By Benny Still  
Ephesians 4:1-16

"What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God!" If we would ever become what God intends for us to be, we must begin to utilize the tools he has placed within our hands.



Still

How often do we remember that God has the right to claim the loyalty of Christians, and that he calls all of us to a dynamic, worthy way of life (v. 1)? Sometimes we get the fact confused with what WE want, rather than what God desires. In the everyday life of the church, we face people who are unloving and unlovable, according to our standards. Christian maturity requires that we exercise various gifts God has given us to maintain church unity and to implement what we believe. If we are "religious" or "churchy" only when we are at the local church building, then our "Christianity" isn't worth much. If that's the case with you, then you aren't putting into practice the teachings of God's word (vv. 2-6).

The teachings of Christianity are defined in terms of definite attitudes and actions (humani-

## LIFE AND WORK

ty, gentleness, patience, love, unity, and peace, vv. 2-3). According to Paul, the church should be united in the seven great spiritual realities by which the Spirit effects a true oneness: fellowship, spirit, hope, response to the Lord, faith, baptism, and worship of God. We all know of churches who are shining examples of these virtues. Likewise, we are aware of others who are struggling just to display a semblance of these attributes. What a sad testimony they show to the world around them! Immaturity abounds, feelings are flying, and the work of Christ is stymied! I hear Paul's heart-cry saying to us in the 20th century church: "GROW UP BROTHERS AND SISTERS! THE TIME IS AT HAND!"

Paul quotes from Psalm 68:18 in verse 8. The incarnated and ascended Christ gives gifts to his people. The unity of the church is expressed in the diverse gifts of grace to each person (vv. 7-10). Paul also voiced these thoughts to the church at Rome in Romans 12:6-13. Hear what he told them as recorded in the TEV: "So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with

the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christian brothers, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers."

Do you think that if each church practiced these sayings of Paul we'd be well on our way to becoming mature in our faith (v. 13)? Are you grounded in your faith or are you allowing yourself to be influenced by every "wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming" (v. 14)? How closely do you think we are measuring up to the goal God set for us to follow? He wants us to have and exhibit unity in our faith, to use the full knowledge of the Son of God, and to develop in spiritual maturity (vv. 13-14).

The continuing work of the church, the evangelizing of the lost (quantitatively), and the maturing of the saved (qualitatively) are made possible by loving loyalty to the head of the church (Jesus) and loving action toward our fellowman (vv. 15-16). Years ago an energetic young employee at the Ford Motor Company sought out Henry Ford and asked him, "How can I make my life a success?" Ford's answer was simply, "When you start a thing, finish it!"

Maturity, whether it be spiritual or otherwise, will come only when we diligently work through to the end. Perhaps there are unfinished projects in your life that need some attention. Habitual laziness comes from being lazy, uninterested, and unconcerned. Maybe that's an avenue we need to pursue in our churches: avoid slothful behavior, become interested in the things of God and his people, and show genuine concern for those around us.

The blue ribbon award for a soul garden that meets the standards of the Lord Jesus is the crown of life stored up for us in heaven. One day he'll give it to us. What grace! What love! What mercy! Doing what God has commanded us through the writings of Paul might just be the "Miracle-Gro" we need to help us to produce as mature children of God.

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.





Twenty students from Carey College's BSU spent spring break in Indiana, conducting surveys and Vacation Bible Schools. Participants are shown above, bottom row, left to right: Candace Boyd, BSU director, Donna Lewallen, Ben James, Chris Holder; second row, Patricia Ady, Emily Cain, Tonya Redeemer, Alessandra Calvento, Tracy Leonard; third row, Grant McLain, Donnie Reynolds, Tara Sumrall, Robert Cross; fourth row, Roger Harr, Joy Vaughn, Tina Williams, Nathan Barber, and Jon Greer.

## Carey's BSU trades spring break for mission trip in Indiana

Twenty students from William Carey College's Baptist Student Union gave up their spring break for a mission trip. The group worked with pastors and missionaries in the South Central Association of Indiana.

Throughout the week, the students were involved in door to door survey work in several towns to locate prospects for new church starts. Local bivocational starters assigned to the association will complete a follow-up on the more than sixty prospects discovered by the Carey BSUs.

As a result of the door to door ministry, two people were saved.

Some of the Carey group held a Vacation Bible School for the children

of Hartsville, Indiana. Others visited local young people from four area churches, encouraging them to attend the youth revival which the Carey students held nightly. Another task of this second group was the follow-up of those who made decisions during the revival services.

Carey BSU director, Candace Boyd, stated that going door to door and sharing the gospel with tracts and personal testimony was a first-time experience for many of the students.

"Many of the students have a renewed burden for the lost and are ready to share Christ with the people at home," Boyd said.

## "Seeing the face"

By Gary Bagley

In the opening scene of the Italian film, *La Dolce Vita*, a helicopter flies low over Rome. Hanging awkwardly beneath it is a statue of Christ, arms outstretched. The camera follows the flight of the helicopter across the city on its way to the Vatican where the statue will be delivered and set in place. Occasionally the lens focuses on the bearded face of the statue but the camera seems more concerned with the responses of the people on the ground than with the statue itself. The responses range from adoration by crowds of common people who try to follow on foot the path of the flying Jesus, all the while yelling and pointing, to the cool disinterest of sun bathers on a rooftop who discuss with the pilots a possible rendezvous after the statue has been delivered.



Bagley

Frederick Buechner saw *La Dolce Vita* as a member of a theater audience made up primarily of college students. As the scene progressed, he observed a change in the responses of the students. For the most part, they laughed in a rather cynical sort of way at the incongruity of a statue of the most widely worshipped person in history hanging helplessly, clumsily, from the most apparently inept, insectlike, vehicle of the helicopter. "But," Buechner said, "when the camera zoomed in on the face of Jesus, the theater became eerily silent." In a strange, inexplicable sort of way, the students identified with the Christ of humiliation. So long as he remained at a distance he was the subject of their laughter and derision. But when they saw his face the laughter ceased, silence reigned. The novelist concluded:

"I think that is much of what the Christian faith is. It is for a moment, just a little while, seeing the face and being still . . . there can be only silence as something comes to life, some spirit, some hope; as something is born again into the world that is so strange and new and precious that not even a cynic can laugh, although he might be tempted to cry."

This is always the response, when one allows himself to be drawn to God. The psalmist of old summoned: "Be still and know that I am God."

Bagley is pastor, First Church, Meridian.

# Youth resource links Bible study, contemporary Christian music

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE — Dan Jones began learning about the complementary link between music and Bible study as a teen-ager in Marietta, Ga., and he is determined to share that lesson with others.

"I grew up singing a lot of hymns and praise choruses at church. While I was in high school, I began to incorporate those songs into my own personal quiet time, and it really began to make a difference in my life," recalled Jones, minister to single adults at First Church of Nashville.

As a young minister, Jones, 32, began including contemporary Christian music at youth and college student retreats. He was impressed by the response to the music at those events and was frequently asked the same question by youth and college leaders: "Where can we get songs like that for our church?"

Finding an answer to that question proved difficult.

"Everything (on the market) was either something like '100 Favorite Gospel Songs' or it was just so expensive nobody could afford it," Jones said. But rather than simply complain about the lack of available materials, he decided to do something about it himself.

Keeping a pen by his bedside, he would frequently awaken during the night with ideas to jot down. He molded the ideas into a proposal for a new

product that would combine contemporary Christian music with Bible studies based on the lyrics of the songs.

Jones' proposal became "Contemporary Praise Resource," a kit released last summer by Genevox Music Group of the Sunday School Board. The kit includes 12 contemporary Christian songs on six accompaniment/demonstration cassettes, overhead cels with the song lyrics, and a leader's guide with 12 devotional Bible studies that examine the message of each song.

"(The product) was designed to give a youth group a body of songs that they could relate to and to help them understand what they were singing about," Jones explained. "I wanted to include songs that would teach them some basic doctrine, so when they sang them they would be reminded of some important biblical truths."

Jones listened to approximately 3,000 songs before choosing the 12 selections included in the praise resource kit. The songs used were written by well-known Christian artists. Among the more familiar titles are: "Love You With My Life"; "Heavenly Father"; "Peace Be Still"; "I'm Yours"; and "Simple, Devoted and True." One of Jones' favorite selections is a contemporary arrangement of the hymn, "Fairer Lord Jesus."

Working with Atlanta-based

producer-arranger Cheryl Rogers, Jones used studio musicians and singers to record the 12 song tracks.

"We designed (the product) so both professional musicians and people with no background in music can use it," Jones said.

On the market for less than a year, the product already has found a wide audience within the Southern Baptist churches and congregations of several other denominations.

While "Contemporary Praise Resource" is designed as a resource for youth, several churches, especially in newer convention areas, are using the accompaniment tapes as a worship resource.

"We use it for praise and worship time for singles and youth and for solos in our worship services," said Tom Blackaby, associate pastor of Friendship Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and director of the Church Music Department of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. "It's a very flexible product that has multiple uses. I've recommended it as a resource to our students at the Canadian Baptist Seminary (in Cochrane, Alberta)," he said.

Contemporary Praise Resource is available at Baptist Book Stores and may also be ordered by calling the Sunday School Board's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772.

Alford writes for BSSB.

## GA camps filled

All GA camps are completely filled and waiting lists are also full, according to Trish Simmons, consultant, state WMU Department.

Acteens Camp, at Central Hills, is scheduled for the week of July 1, and some space is still available for Acteens, says Jan Cossitt, state Acteens director.

## High School Baptist Young Men name National Speak Out winner

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Warren Kinghorn of Greenville, S.C., has been selected winner of the 1991 Jerry Clower National High School Baptist Young Men Missions Speak Out. The annual competition is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

Kinghorn, a sophomore at Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, won the award in competition with finalists who represented nine SBC state conventions.

The award is named for Christian comedian Jerry Clower, a longtime supporter of the Brotherhood Commission's missions education programs for men and boys in Southern Baptist churches.

Kinghorn is an active member of Edwards Road Church in Greenville and its High School Baptist Young Men's unit. He is the son of Andy and Betsy Kinghorn.

## Language Scripture distribution planned for September 1992

MIAMI (BP) — During two months next year, Southern Baptists will be asked to deliver Scriptures in languages other than English to every ethnic person in their communities.

A recent study shows people from at least one ethnic group reside in every Southern Baptist association in the United States, said Tom Wright, director of the Home Mission Board's language church development department.

The Scripture distribution is set for September and October of 1992, but Wright said churches should begin

planning for the project now.

Participating churches need to include money to buy the language Scriptures in their 1992 budgets and begin identifying ethnic groups in their neighborhoods, he said. A guide for interested churches is scheduled to be available from the Home Mission Board customer service center by July 1991.

The Evangelistic Language Scripture Distribution plan was announced during a conference for catalytic home missionaries in Miami.

## First, Flowood, celebrates 50 years

First Church, Flowood, will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 2. The morning service will begin at 10:45 a.m. with guest speaker Allen Stephens. There will be dinner on the grounds immediately following the service. At 1:15 p.m. the church will have an afternoon service.

## Mt. Vernon burns

Mt. Vernon Church, Webster County, near Eupora, burned the night of May 21. It is a total loss. More details later.

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